

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) Due to product constraint, LPG connections are released in a phased manner, keeping in view the annual enrolment plan and slack available with the distributor and the waiting list. Following preferential/priority criteria are currently being followed for release of connections at present;

1. Hilly areas
2. Taj Trapezium
3. Tatkal Scheme
4. Customers registered prior to 1.1.1991.
5. M.P. Priority Connections
6. Distributors operating below the viability level.
7. Release 1000 connections to newly commissioned distributorships in two instalments in the first year of commissioning.
8. Balance LPG connections are released through distributors operating above viability limit in accordance with norms developed by each oil company, based on principle that old distributors with less refill sale and large waiting list get more connections.

(b) The number of new connections released to the distributors of Public Sector Oil Companies during the last three years is given below :

Year	No. of connections released (in lakhs)
1994-95	22.9
1995-96	20.5
1996-97	23.4

(c) As per the direction of the Government to clear waiting list prior to 1.1.1991, the distributors are releasing LPG connections on demand to the applicants registered before 1.1.1991. The distributors commissioned before 1.1.1991 will be having more people in the waiting list generated before 1.1.1991 on account of location etc., it may not be possible to transfer these connections to new distributors. Therefore, it is possible that such distributors are releasing more connections than those which are newly commissioned.

(d) and (e) No discrimination is made against the distributors of reserved category vis-a-vis other categories in allocation of new LPG connections. The Oil Companies take adequate care to ensure that the distributors operating

below the ceiling limit, especially those operating below the viability limit, including those from the reserved category get maximum number of new connections compared to those operating above viable limit.

Tribal Heroes

3020. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to establish any foundation on the pattern of Ambedkar Foundation to identify the Tribal Heroes who fought for freedom struggle while celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of our independence;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) to (c) There is no proposal, as such, to establish any foundation on the pattern of Ambedkar Foundation to identify the Tribal Heroes who fought for freedom struggle during the Golden Jubilee Celebration of India's Independence.

[English]

Krishna Water Dispute Tribunal Award

3021. SHRI K.S. RAYADU :
SHRI L. RAMANA :
SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has urged the Union Government to review the sanctions for Tunga and other Projects in violation of Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal Award;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon; and

(c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken to ensure full inflow of water in the drought-prone Rayalseema region ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) to (c) Andhra Pradesh has urged the Union Government to review sanctions/clearances granted to upper Tunga and other projects of Krishna basin in Karnataka and also restraining